D-7694

CONFIDENTIAL
FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 7694
Date 23-12-36

SHAFIC GEORGE HATEM, USA CITIZEN

S.G. HATEM

1936

FM. 2
G. 40M-9-35

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. D. 7694

Section 2, Special Branch, 36

SECRET

Date June 9, 36

Subject DR. S. G. HATEM

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev Forwarded by D S I Legne

Shafick George HATEM arrived in Shanghai from Trieste on September 5, 1933, in the s.s. "Conte Verde." From the Aliens' Passport Declaration Form he filled up prior to disembarkment it would appear that he is an American who was born in 1910 at Buffalo, N.C. Giving his home address as Roanoke Rapids, N.C., U.S.A., and his profession as doctor of medicine, he travelled on U.S. passport No. 519 issued on August 3, 1933, by the American Consulate-General at Geneva, which bears a Chinese visa issued on August 11 of the same year at Trieste. He stated that he intended to remain in Shanghai for an indefinite period and that his object in coming to this city was to practice medicine.

On September 11, 1933, Dr. Hatem, in company with Dr. R.D. Levinson, applied for registration with the Shanghai Medical Board. They presented doctor's diplomas of the University of Geneva issued in 1933. After the local Consulate-General for Switzerland had been communicated with regarding the validity of their qualification papers, their applications were approved and their names were included in the Shanghai Municipal Council's register of medical practitioners for 1934.

On January 16, 1934, Dr. Hatem and Dr. Levinson established their offices in Room 406, No. 10 Kiukiang Road (Continental Bank Building) which they occupied until November of the same year. Dr. Hatem's office address in 1935 was 39 Peking Road. Enquiries at Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., owners of the premises, show that Dr. Hatem's name never appeared on the list of tenants and that, in all probability, he shared an office with either Dr. E. S. Lobsevsky or Drs. Ivy & Robinson in the same building. It will be recalled that

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Morris Appelman (D.5180) upon his return in Shanghai from Nagasaki on August 16, 1934, mentioned Dr. Hatem as a reference in his Aliens' Passport Declaration Form. Further, it will be recalled that Dr. Lobsovsky (died in 1935) who was an official dentist to the staff of the local Soviet Consulate, was also connected with Morris Appelman. It would, therefore, appear that it was Dr. Lobsovsky with whom Dr. Hatem shared an office at 39 Peking Road.

On April 26, 1934, Dr. Hatem applied at the S.M. Police Traffic Office for a driving licence. On that occasion he gave his address as No. 588 Yu Yuen Road and produced a note bearing the signature of Mr. E. Farkas, Hungarian, who at that time resided at No. 749 Yu Yuen Road, to the effect that he was permitted to drive a motorcar owned by Mr. Farkas. On June 26, 1935, Dr. Hatem renewed his licence and gave his address as Apt. 4, No. 260 Yu Yuen Road. He has not appeared at the Traffic Office since that time and there is nothing on record to show that he owns or uses a motor car.

In November, 1935, Dr. Hatem in reply to a communication from the Public Health Department gave his office address as Apartment 4, 260 Yu Yuen Road. He also intimated that Dr. Levinson intended to leave Shanghai shortly.

At present it appears that Dr. Hatem is still residing at the above address but that he does not receive patients there. Reference to the available hong lists for 1934, 1935 and 1936 shows that Dr. Hatem's name is mentioned only in the hong list for 1934. It does not appear in the telephone directory for 1936 (summer edition).

Dr. Levinson referred to above arrived in Shanghai from

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Geneva via Trieste together with Dr. Hatem. On the Aliens' Passport Declaration Form he entered the following particulars:-

Robert Daniel Levinson, American, born in 1906, at New York City. Home address: 1325 East 13th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. Doctor of medicine. Holds American passport No. 514 issued on July 27, 1933, by the American Consulate-General at Geneva, which bears a Chinese visa issued on August 11, 1933, at Trieste.

Upon arrival in Shanghai he took up his residence at 588 Yu Yuen Road. His present address is not known and it appears that he left Shanghai some time towards the end of 1935.

Enquiries show that Flat 4, 260 Yu Yuen Road, has been occupied since February, 1934, by Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Leibenson. H.A. Leibenson, 58, is a Latvian of Jewish origin and is a teacher of music by profession. He is reported to have been resident in Shanghai for many years. On September 5, 1933 he returned to this city ffem Switzerland together with Dr. Hatem and Dr. Levinson. At that time he was in possession of Latvian passport No. 665 issued on 10.7.32, at Shanghai. He gave as references the following persons: Mr. Vernon Caton, 48 Temple Lane and Miss F. Lipzer, 588 Yu Yuen Road.

It is of interest to note that among the passengers who arrived in Shanghai on the s.s. "Conte Verde" on Sept. 5, 1933, was Mrs. CHANA KOENIG, 27, German (D.6227). She travelled on German passport No. 188-67/32 issued on 16.6.32 and visaed on 10.7.1933 at the Chinese Embassy at Berlin. She also stated that she arrived in Shanghai to join her husband, R.Koenig, whose address she gave as "No. 2/4 Medhurst Road" (Medhurst Rd.)

Attached herewith is a photograph of Dr. S.G. Hatem.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Copy sent to B./DNR. 2/6.

G. Prokofiev
D.S.I.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1936

VIRTUAL SLAVE CONDITIONS IN PLATING TRADE

Report Made by Medical Association

WORKERS' HEALTH BAD

Metal Dust Causes Many Complaints

SPECIAL TO THE "N.-C.D.N."

Conditions amounting to virtual slavery are revealed in the report of the Chinese Medical Association on the chromium plating and polishing industries in Shanghai. The report, drawn up by Dr. Bernard E. Read, Dr. S. G. Hatem, and Messrs. Diu Yü-bao and Lee Wei-yung, analyzes the living and working conditions of employees in the trade and shows that both are hopelessly inadequate.

The majority of the workers are between the ages of twelve and twenty years, according to the investigation; and far from being the benevolent and paternal system it is often represented to be, the apprentice system in this trade is shown to be heartless and cruel. Chinese law requires apprenticeship contracts but in actual fact these are seldom made. The report states:

Boys Farmed Out

"The apprenticeship system in China, of which this is an example, has often been described, but perhaps nowhere do its evils demonstrate themselves more clearly than in the trade now studied. There is a generally accepted view that the owner of a factory or workshop frequently takes into his service young lads who come from his own town of origin and are known to him and that on this account he expresses a paternal interest in their whole well-being, even though they may have to work very hard. The present study has revealed that while this may be the case to some extent, a situation far otherwise exists concurrently. An entrepreneur, who may have paid a visit to a country district, will bring back a small boy promising the parents that he will have him taught a trade. He goes from workshop to workshop, till finally he finds a master who is in need of another unpaid assistant. He hands the boy over and for this may receive a sum of some $5 for his services, and the new master may not even know his name or any facts concerning him. It is obvious that should the boy fall ill, or become injured there is little cause of responsibility on the part of the manager or owner of the workshop.

"In order to discover with some exactitude to what extent there is a tendency in the employment of young-er [illegible]

[redacted] or been dismissed. [redacted] be attributed to any dereliction, [redacted] the worker in each place was replaced. Since 70 per cent. of the workers in the group of 200 medically examined were lads under 20 years of age, it is obvious that the turnover is a large one and would indicate that some very casual relationships exist. No general figures for turnover in other trades are available for comparison, but the percentage is sufficiently high within the short period to be significant. Neither is it known to what extent the dispensing with the worker coincides with his attaining an age and experience when he would have to be given remuneration for his services. It is, however, known that when the boy has served an apprenticeship of three or four years and is demanding that he receive some pay, it is often found convenient to replace him by a younger unpaid boy in good health fresh from the country."

Converted Dwelling Houses

Most of the chromium plating factories in Shanghai are converted dwelling houses. They are usually an ordinary Chinese house or shop, containing one larger room and a kitchen downstairs and two rooms above. The front room, facing the street, is usually adapted for buffing and polishing, while the kitchen frequently has plating vats installed. The floor of the workshop is the sleeping place of the apprentices whose bedding by day may be seen rolled up and placed in a corner of the dusty polishing room. Lofts, though the exit from them is precarious in case of fire at night, are nevertheless regarded as superior sleeping accommodation and are chosen by the older workers.

The conditions in the workshops are often appalling. The hours of work average out to eleven hours a day. In polishing shops six or eight buffing or polishing wheels are crowded into as small a space as possible. The older workers graduate to wheels nearest the doorway where there is more air and light. The newest apprentice mans the wheels farthest from the open air. He is visible only dimly through the dense cloud of dust which perpetually arises from the wheels as the metal is polished with the use of abrasives. The dust never settles, for the shafting, being attached to the wooden ceiling of a building not designed to carry an industrial load, causes a vibration which keeps the dust always in motion.

The effect of these conditions upon young workers can be imagined, and the sickness rate among them is extremely high. The report referred to gives details of the different diseases found among the workers in the factories examined. Many of them are directly attributable to the conditions under which the youths have to earn their keep. Nasal, respiratory and lung complaints are common among them, as can be understood when it is realised that the atmosphere they breathe for eleven hours of the day is laden with metal dust and the fumes of acids and other chemicals used in the industry.

In the International Settlement it is believed that more than 1,200 work-

(Continued on page 10)